

JEWS IN EASTERN EUROPE

A Periodical Survey of Events

ISRAEL IN SOVIET CARTOONS



The Anti-semitic Stereotype

THE "ISRAEL-JEW"

DUAL IMAGE IN SOVIET HATE PROPAGANDA

This special number of JEWS IN EASTERN EUROPE is entirely given over to anti-Israel cartoons that have appeared in the Soviet press. We have reproduced only a small number of the many hundreds featured in newspapers and magazines throughout the Soviet Union. For Israel, Zionism and the various aspects of the "global threat" they allegedly represent are constant themes in the Soviet press, omnipresent in the true sense of the word. If the impression given by the Soviet propaganda media were to be believed, "Zionism" is considered by the Soviet authorities to be the most insidious threat to the safety and future of progressive mankind—an unrelentingly malevolent force that surpasses all others in evil. Articles in Soviet newspapers have stated that "Zionism is fascism"; that Jews are taught to believe it is their right to rule over mankind; that Zionists "want to rule the world"; that Israel is "a serpent to swallow the world"; that the Jewish religion is "characterised by hatred of man, the preaching of genocide, the cultivation of the love of power and the praise of criminal methods for achieving power". These cartoons, subliminal images of hatred and prejudice, are clearly designed to reinforce such messages.

The drawings we have reproduced are taken from those published in the U.S.S.R. since the "Six Day War" of June, 1967. They appear in descending order, beginning with those published in December, 1969. But if one studies them in their true sequence an interesting trend emerges. In the immediate aftermath of the war Israel was depicted in terms of nightmarish terror—a scaly, reptilian creature straddling the Middle East, a giant scorpion ejaculating death and destruction, a wolf gnawing its victim's bones. The texts accompanying such cartoons are inclined to attribute fiendish ingenuity to Israeli military intelligence and enormous influence to an "international Zionist corporation" which is allegedly not only the ally of the U.S., West German and British imperialism but also their principal instrument of subversion in the Middle East, the Communist countries and in Africa. This propaganda may have overreached itself, creating some despondency among readers, because one Soviet newspaper found it expedient to declare that it would be a mistake to think Israel and Zionism were invincible: they were not. The tendency since then has been to depict Israel in more contemptible, if no less hateful, terms, as both bellicose and ridiculous, sly and servile, a misshapen dwarf who cunningly seeks to manipulate his powerful patrons.

We have noted on other occasions that Soviet propaganda depicts Israel as "the Yid among the nations", endowing the collective Jewish State with the stereotypical vices anti-semitic propaganda allocates to the individual Jew. This emerges clearly from a study of the cartoons. Quite apart from their overt political message, they project a caricature of the "Israel-Jew", who, despite the modern trappings, is directly drawn from the mythology of anti-semitism—hawk-nosed, cunning, filled with hatred, envy and cupidity, hands dripping with the blood of holy innocents.

It is this aspect, more than anything, that makes such cartoons a dangerous component of Soviet anti-semitism. Pictures are more powerful and immediate in their effect than columns of print. When the first modern Soviet anti-semitic book was published—T. K. Kichko's "Judaism Without Embellishment" (Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, 1963)—it was not so much the text that aroused international outrage as the anti-semitic illustrations featured in the book. But compared to Soviet writings on Jews, Judaism, Zionism and Israel today, Kichko's book is relatively restrained and the illustrations that caused so much concern are often less offensive than the daily cartoons now appearing in Soviet newspapers. Even more to the point is the fact that "Judaism Without Embellishment", written in Ukrainian, reached a relatively small reading public whereas the present flood of crude anti-semitic propaganda appears in all the main languages of the Soviet Union, in all manner of newspapers, and in hundreds of broadcasts. It is, therefore, directed at the total Soviet population of 240 millions and beyond them to the world at large.

This perilous escalation cannot have occurred by accident. It points to a calculated disregard of international sensibilities in the cause of political expediency, a readiness to pander to traditional ignorance and prejudice. Anti-semitism, like the atom bomb, is a disastrously self-destructive weapon. The "fall-out" it produces contaminates the atmosphere all men have in common, as was shown by the terrible consequences of Nazi anti-semitism for millions of other Europeans besides Jews. Today the Soviet Union is the principal source of crude anti-Jewish propaganda in the world. References to Israel, Zionism and Judaism in the Soviet press verge on paranoid obsession. A similar psychosis in Poland has destroyed the tiny surviving Jewish community in that country and abruptly terminated more than a thousand years of Polish-Jewish history. But the consequences in the U.S.S.R., with its global responsibilities and large Jewish population of three millions, are inevitably more ominous. If Israel and Jews are the primary target of the cartoons reproduced in this booklet, past experience has shown that the ultimate sufferer is mankind as a whole.



"Washington's lighter."

— Krasnaya Zvezda, December 25, 1969



К «УРЕГУЛИРОВАНИЮ» БЛИЖНЕВОСТОЧНОГО КОНФЛИКТА

"Towards the 'regulation' of the Near Eastern conflict".

— *Agitator*, No. 24, December, 1969



Material and moral support from the U.S.A. for the Israeli aggressors.

— *Izvestia*, November 25, 1969

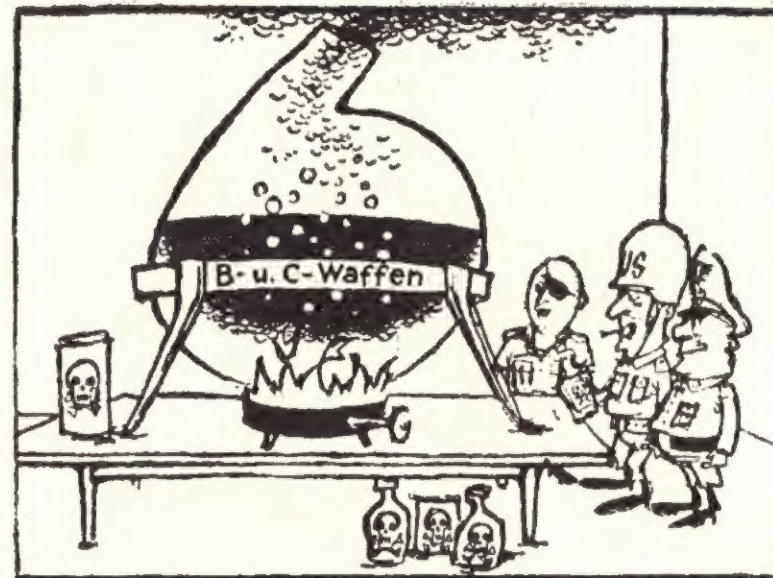


A simian Israel, the dagger—"Expansionism"—clenched between his teeth.

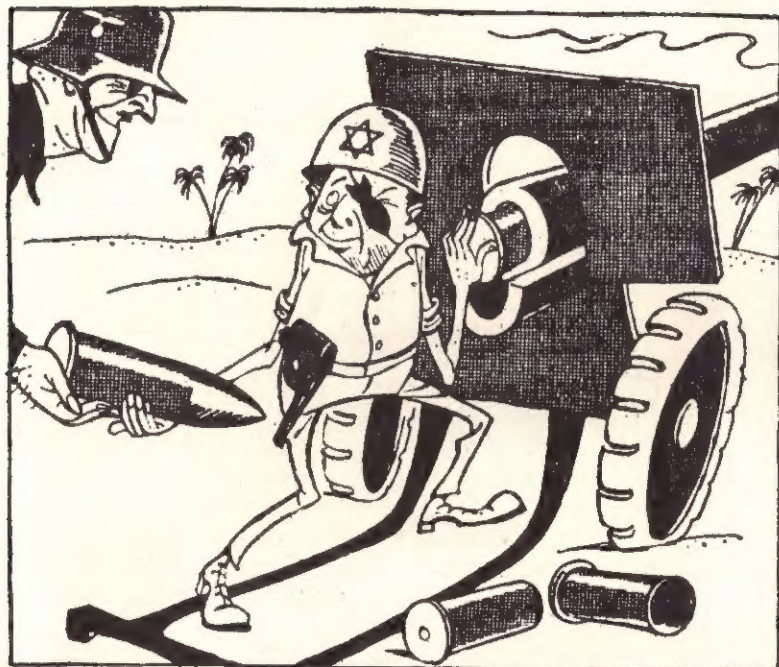
— *Bakinsky Rabochy*, November 22, 1969



Israel "shown" recruiting German mercenaries. "Well, with what shall we begin — Oradour or Maidanek".
— *Krokodil*, No. 24, August, 1969



Israel, U.S.A. and West Germany as depicted in *Pravda Ukrainy*, July 26, 1969. (The cartoon originally appeared in the East German newspaper *Der Morgen*).



West German militarists give enormous aid in the form of equipment and battle technique to the Israeli army. Caption: "Bonn's donation to the aggressor" (a play on the name "Dayan").

— *Krasnaya Zvezda*, July 25, 1969

В настоящее время военные расходы Израиля — самые большие в мире в сопоставлении с размерами страны и численностью ее населения.
(Из газет).

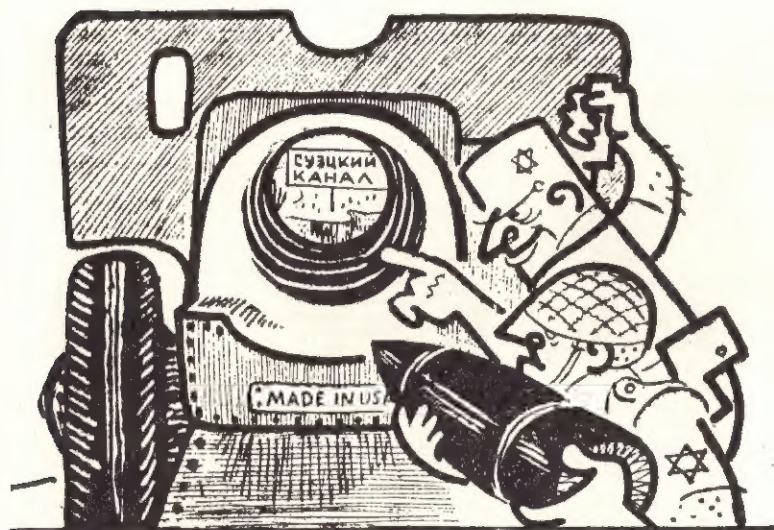


"Israel has the largest military expenditure per capita in the world". The caption below the cartoon, a reference to Soviet charges that Zionism aims at world domination, reads: "At last, Israel has attained 'world supremacy'." "Israel" is flanked by the U.S.A. and a Jewish millionaire.

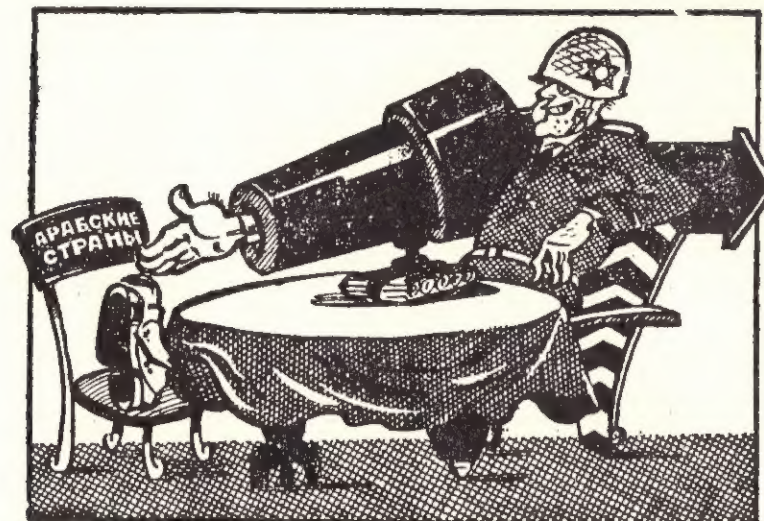
— *Pravda*, July 17, 1969



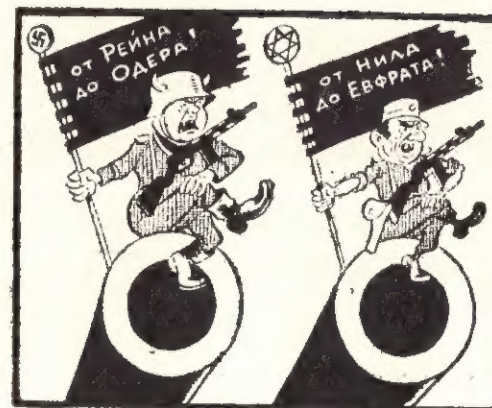
Israel throws a Hitlerite shadow. "In the footsteps of the bankrupt ancestor".
— *Gudok*, July 5, 1969



Точка зрения Тель-Авива на решение ближневосточной проблемы.
"Tel Aviv's point of view on the solution of the Near Eastern problem".
— *Pravda Ukrainy*, June 26, 1969



"Invitation to talks".
— *Sovietskaya Latvia*, May 27, 1969



The "allies", "Revanchists" and "Zionists", are shown carrying twin flags — "From the Rhine to the Oder!", "From the Nile to the Euphrates!"
— *Gudok*
May 23, 1969



**АМЕРИКАНО-ЗАПАДНОГЕРМАНСКИЙ
БРОНЕКОЛПАК ИЗРАИЛЬСКОГО ДОТА**

Художник Е. Горехов.

"American - West German armoured cover form the Israeli pill box".
— *Agitator*, No. 10, May, 1969

Пролетарии всех стран, соединяйтесь!

АГИТАТОР 6

ЖУРНАЛ ЦК КПСС • МАРТ 1969

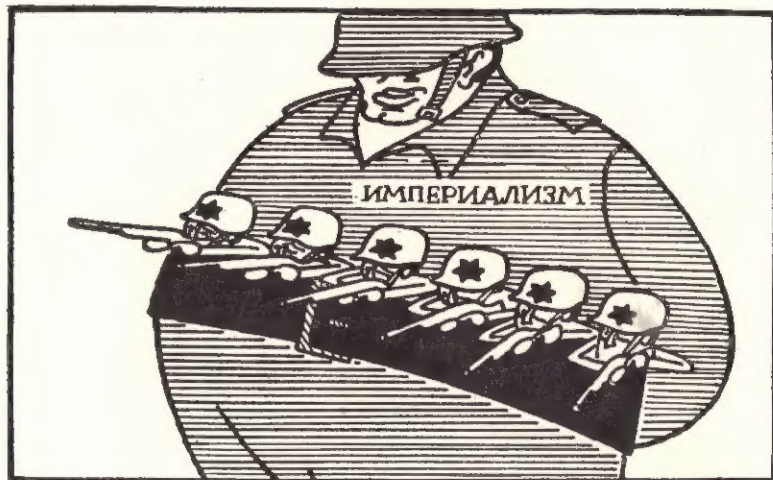
Цена 10 коп.
Индекс 70005

Захватническая политика Израиля осуществляется нередко по рецептам гитлеровских агрессоров.
(Из газет).



(Israeli policies follow Hitlerite prescriptions).
"Cribbing from the Nazis".

— *Agitator*, March, 1969



ПОДТЯНУЛИ «ПОЯС».

Рис. В. Тильмань.

Imperialism. "Tightening the 'belt'".

— Pravda, March 8, 1969

ШИРМА МОШЕННИКОВ.
Рис. В. Нестерова.

Quoting UAR State information service, Israel's policy of "active self-defence" is said to be in reality "active war against the Arabs". Caption reads: "A screen for swindlers". (The Russian word for swindler is "moshennik", used here as a word-play on the first name of Dayan).

— Kazhstanskaya Pravda, April 12, 1969



Israel and South Africa are the main base of reaction and imperialism in the Afro-Asian world and use every means to divide and set the peoples of the two continents against each other. The tree is marked "Afro-Asian solidarity", the saw "Axis SAR - Israel".

— Gudok, April 18, 1969



The cartoon shows "South Africa" offering "Israel" the example of Bantustans as a model for the treatment of the occupied Arab territories. Caption: "This typical project is admirably suited for the Arab population".

— *Izvestia*, April 16, 1969



The infant "Israel" shown with its proud American and West German "parents".

— *Gudok*, April 16, 1969

КРОКОДИЛ

АПРЕЛЬ 1969



— Ну-ка, дайте огонька! Не разберу, что здесь написано...

Рисунок Андрея КРЫЛОВА

Resolution of UNO. "Come on, give some fire! I can't see what's written here".

— *Krokodil*, April, 1969



Israel is intensifying the terror against the population of the occupied territories. Arabs are intimidated, beaten up and thrown into prison in their hundreds. Caption: "Behind the Israeli star".
— *Krasnaya Zvezda*, April 4, 1969



НЕТ ДЫМА БЕЗ ОГНЯ.

Рис. М. Абрамова.

West German and American military monopolies carry out the orders of the Israeli aggressors. "There is no smoke without fire".
— *Pravda*, February 27, 1969



The Israeli "bulldog", its teeth spelling out the word "Aggression" and chained to its American master, barks and whines for donations. (Again, a play on the name "Dayan").

— *Selskaya Zizhn*, February 8, 1969



"God sees that we are striving for peace".

— *Krasnaya Zvezda*, February 5, 1969

Линию прекращения огня между арабскими странами и Израилем более правильно было бы сейчас назвать линией непрерывающихся провокаций тель-авивских милитаристов. (Из газет).



ЛИНИЯ ИЗРАИЛЬСКИХ ПРОВОКАТОРОВ. Рис. М. АБРАМОВА.

The machine-gun uses ammunition that spells "Cease-fire Line".
Caption: "The line of the Israeli provocateurs".

— *Krasnaya Zvezda*, January 28, 1969



"Donation". (Again a play on the name "Dayan").
— *Zarya Vostoka*, January 24, 1969



"The right hand does not know what the left hand is doing".
— *Krasnaya Zvezda*, January 22, 1969



НЕДОНОШЕННЫЙ ПОДКИДЫШ

Рис. В. Нестерова.

War hysteria has been caused in Tel Aviv by France's total ban on military supplies to Israel. In their fury, Israel's militarists are trying to scare the world public by circulating rumours that Israel has the possibility of having atomic weapons. Picture shows a crude atom bomb being deposited at a door marked "Press".

Caption: "Abandoning a premature baby".

— *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*, January 19, 1969



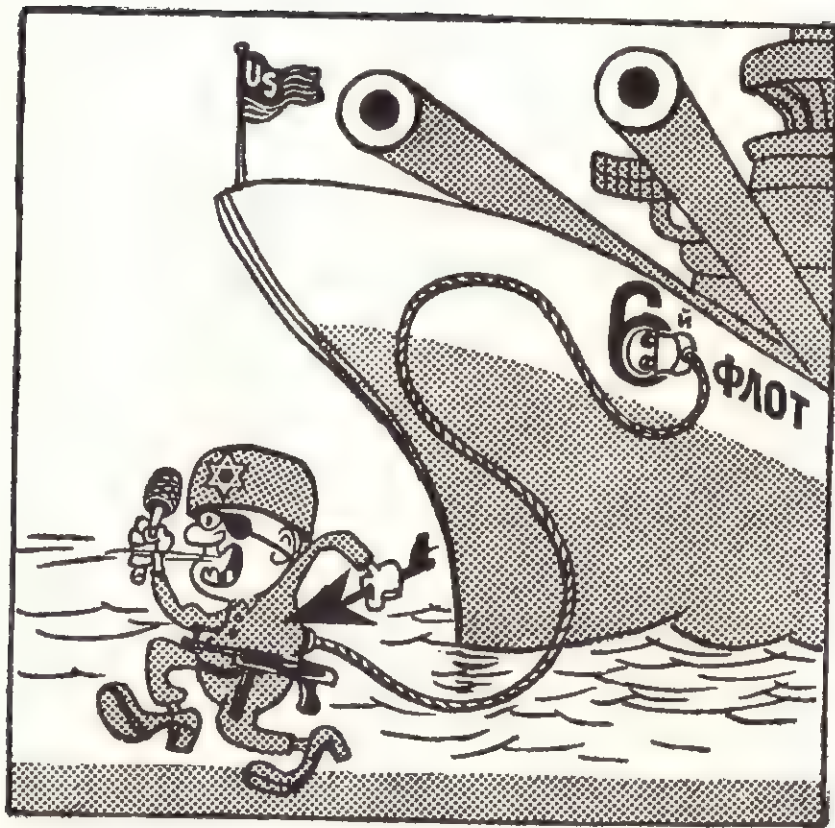
"Decisions of the Security Council".

— *Sovietskaya Rossia*, January 12, 1969

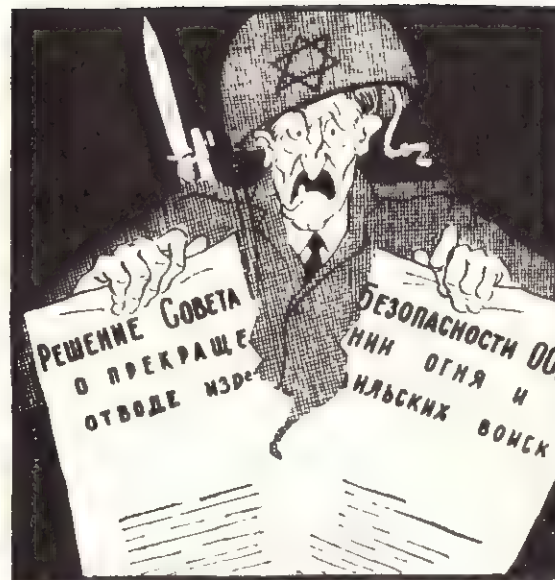


Israel is committing aggressive acts against Lebanon every day since the piratical raid on Beirut's international airport. Caption: "It doesn't wash off? Piffle! I shall say these are birthmarks."

— *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*, January 10, 1969



"Sixth Fleet — source of the insolence of the Israeli aggressor".
— *Zaria Vostoka*, January 8, 1969

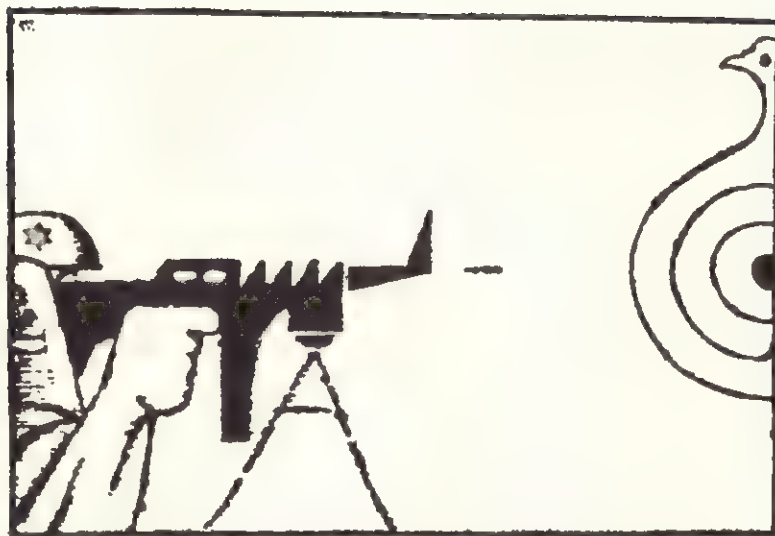


The "Security Council Resolution" ordering "ceasefire" and "troop withdrawal" being torn up. Caption: "We are sharing this decision".
— *Krasnaya Zvezda*, December 28, 1968



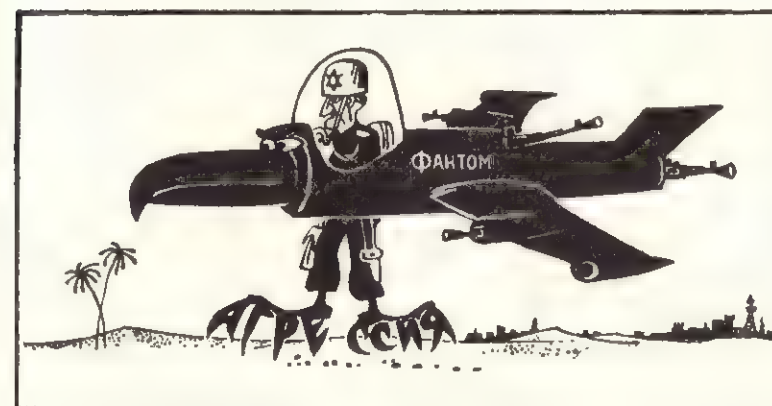
"Israeli armed forces bomb and shell Jordanian settlements with the aim of annexing new Arab lands". Caption: "The latest aggression techniques".

— *Pravda*, December 9, 1968



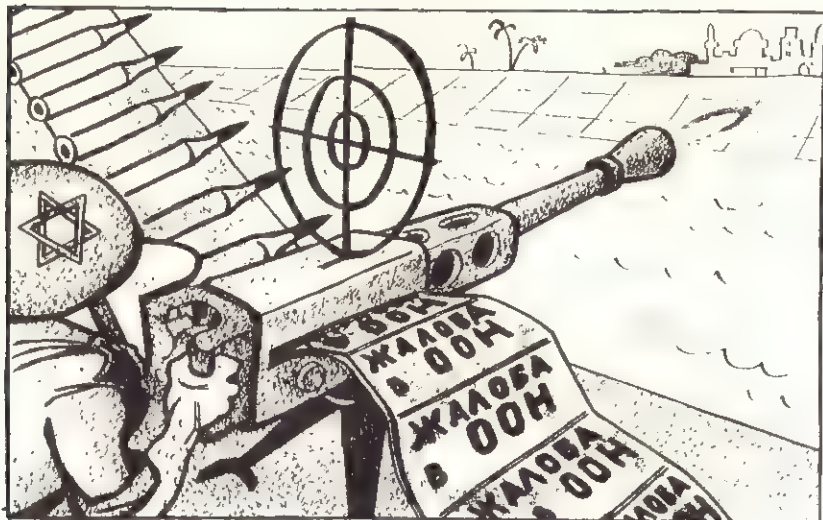
"The Israeli aggressors continue their provocations against Arab countries, inflaming the atmosphere in the Middle East and placing the entire world under threat of war".

— *Rabotchaya Gazeta*, December 12, 1968



"The Tel Avivian Yastrebitel". ("Yastrelo" means "hawk").

— *Pravda*, December 2, 1968



"Complaints to the U.N." — *Krokodil*, November 1968



"Gloves for the second round of aggression".
— *Zarya Vostoka*, October 16, 1968

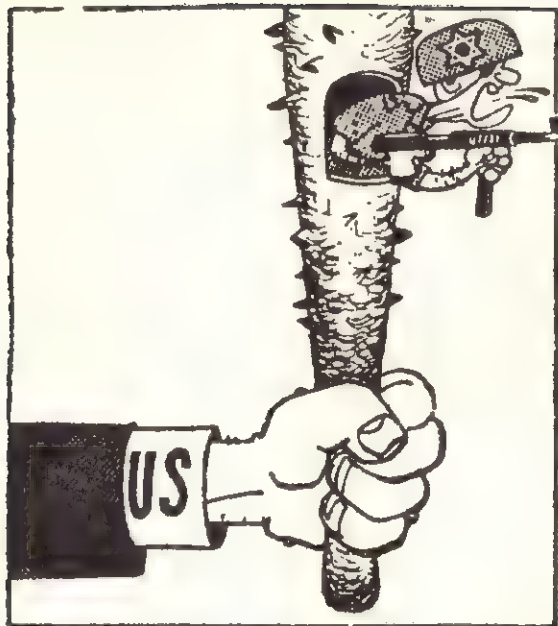


"Israel" as a worm stuck on the bayonet of aggression. The figure also forms a dollar sign. Caption: "A familiar outline of Israeli diplomacy".

— *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*,
September 29, 1968



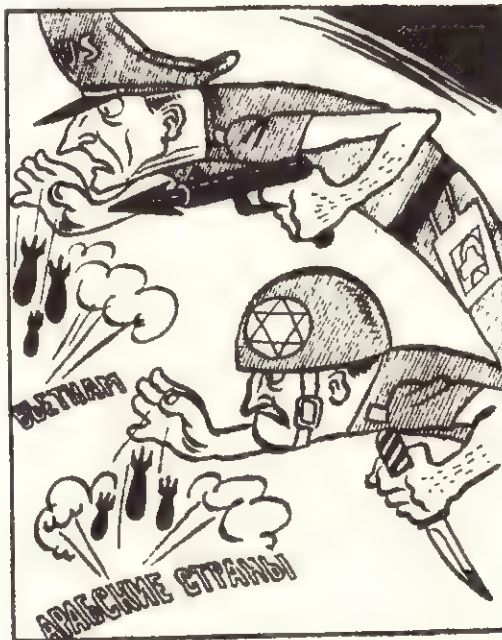
Krasnaya Zvezda,
September 27, 1968



Zary Vostoka,
September 20,
1968

Under the heading "Politics in Caricature", the paper explains that as the imperialists had failed to change the balance of forces in Central Europe (i.e. in Czechoslovakia), they were trying to intensify tension in the Middle East. The cartoon depicts "Vietnam" and "the Arab states" under bombardment.

— *Pravda Ukrainy*
September 13, 1968



"As events in the international arena show, U.S. and West Germany ruling circles turn out to be the main patrons of the Israeli aggressors".

Caption: "They sing in chorus".

— *Sovietskaya Rossia*, September 11, 1968



"In Cairo new communiqués reporting successful actions by Arab partisans are being received".

Caption: "There is a draught".

— *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*,
August 2, 1968



"Properties from the Third Reich".
— *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*, July 10, 1968



"The aggressor's guardian angel".
— *Agitator*, June, 1968



"Israeli troops shoot at Arab villages in Jordan, Syria and the Lebanon. Every day peaceful citizens are killed and houses are destroyed. The concentration of Israeli forces near the cease-fire lines, the mobilisation of reserves and the war-like statements of Tel Aviv extremists supported by the U.S.A., lead us to believe Israel is preparing new provocative acts".

Caption: "We have thrown aside all restraint".

— Rabotchaya Gazeta, June 23, 1968



"The Israeli extremists' appetite".

— Sovetskaya Moldavia, June 4, 1968



"The leading Israeli drummers".
— *Pravda Vostoka*,
May 8, 1968



"Israeli forces continually perpetrate provocative acts, preventing the release of ships belonging to different countries which have been blocked in the Suez Canal as a result of the Israeli aggression". Caption: "The provocateurs never keep quiet".
— *Pravda*, February 8, 1968



"An Israeli python and an American 'bidon' (petrol drum).
— *Pravda Vostoka*, February 11, 1968



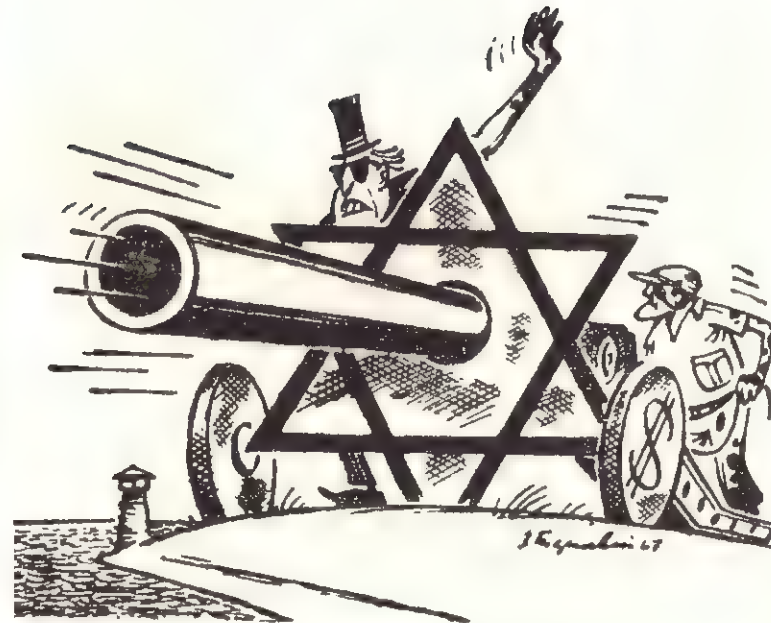
"From hands to hands". — *Sovietskaya Rossia*, November 21, 1967



"The aggressive tune, 'Bonn - Tel Aviv'." — *Pravda*, November 18, 1967.



"You are a gifted pupil, colleague Dayan!"
—*Za Rubezhom*, September 29, 1967
(reprinted from the East German *Berliner Zeitung*)



Bakinsky Rabochyi, July 28, 1967



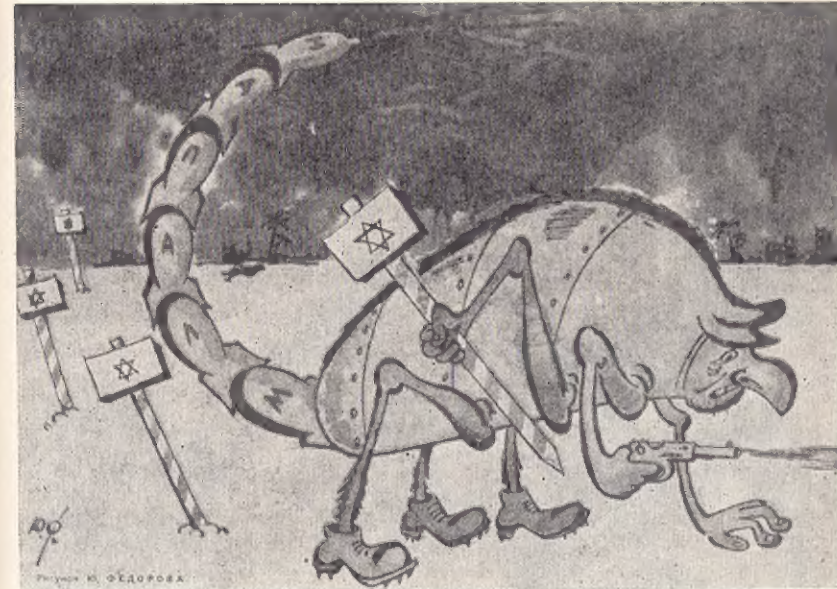
—Kommunist Tadjikistana, July 4, 1967



From the Soviet German-language Neues Leben, July 5, 1967



Krokodil, No. 18, June 1967



Krokodil, No. 18, June, 1967



The aggressor's relay baton.

Bakinsky Rabochi, June 23, 1967



Dayan to Hitler: Move on!

Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, June 21, 1967.

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